

Message Text

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ACTION SPM-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 OIC-04 AID-20 HEW-08

SWF-02 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /202 W

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P R 191240Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6500

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, SPOP, UNWPC, MA

SUBJECT: WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE

REF: A. STATE 161933; B. STATE 180817

1. LOCAL PRESS ANNOUNCED DEPARTURE OF MALAGASY DELEGATION TO UNWPC BUCHAREST MORNING AUGUST 19. PRIOR ATTEMPTS BY EMBASSY TO LEARN COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION UNSUCCESSFUL DUE TO APPARENT UNCERTAINTY OF GOMR OFFICIALS AS TO SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR POSSIBLE DELEGATES. TWO-MAN DELEGATION IS HEADED BY DR. REMI TIANDRAZA, DIRECTOR OF POPULATION AT MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON POPULATION. OTHER DELEGATE IS JEAN SALAVA, PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND SPORTS FOR MADAGASCAR'S SECOND CITY, TAMATAVE.

2. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAS NO BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON SALAVA, TIANDRAZA IS KNOWN WELL AND FAVORABLY TO MISSION. A NATIVE OF FASHIONALBLE RESORT ISLAND OF NOSSI-BE OFF NORTH COAST OF MADAGASCAR, TIANDRAZA IS SOPHISTICATED AND URBANE. SINCE REVOLUTION OF MAY 1972 TIANDRAZA HAS WORKED

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RELENTLESSLY TO ATTEMPT TO REVERSE PRO-NATALIST STAND OF

PREVIOUS REGIME. HE IS CONSIDERED EXTREMELY TACTFUL IN HIS DEALINGS AND AS EFFECTIVE AS POSSIBLE IN HIS DIFFICULT POSITION. HE HAS SHOWN A CONSISTENTLY OPEN AND FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARDS AMERICANS. HE READS BUT DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH. HIS FRENCH IS EXCELLENT.

3. POSITION OF GOMR IN CONFERENCE REMAINS UNCLEAR, HOWEVER. RECENT ATTEMPTS (UNDER TIANDRAZA'S LEADERSHIP) TO ABROGATE 1920 LAW BANNING CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICES HS BEEN STALLED IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETINGS, ALTHOUGH CONTRACEPTIVES ARE OPENLY SOLD, DISTRIBUTED AND ADVERTISED IN MADAGASCAR. A RECENT SEMINAR ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZED BY NATIONAL PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON POPULATION DEMONSTRATED THAT CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION EXISTS TO INTRODUCTION OF FAMILY PLANNING AS NATIONAL POLICY. GOVERNMENT RADIO BROADCAST AUGUST 19 (STATED THAT POPULATION CONFERENCE WOULD PROBABLY BE ANOTHER "CONFRONTATION BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS AND THIRD WORLD" SUCH AS CARACAS LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE.

4. EMBASSY FEELS THAT GOMR DELEGATION MOST LIKELY TO ASSUME LOW KEY ROLE IN CONFERENCE TO AVOID AROUSING CONTROVERSY AT HOME ON THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE.
ELFERS

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